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VOTER VALUES

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With the year drawing to an end, a question certain to be asked by heads of families across our great nation is "What will my income be this year after taxes?"

Bureaucrats, operating on the dole side of the ledger however, are bound to challenge each other with the query, "What do you think our taxes will be this year before incomes are deducted?"

The Federal Income Tax take from American wage earners for the year 1964 will be approximately \$493,900,000,000 before our net regulated take home pay is deducted. Within the normal range of between 10% and 80% of gross earnings retained per capita, at least some observers of the economic arena estimate that about 20% of the above stated 12 month gross national income will never see the inside of pay envelopes.

Yet affluence is and forever will be measured by the maximum percentage of your total wage that you are free to handle, spend, save, give away or invest in some responsible and unobstructed manner of your own choosing. If we accept the accounts of historians writing about the formative years of our young republic, we must certainly be impressed by the genius of their horse and buggy methods.

For example, when the Federal Government was still in its infancy and its personnel was made up of a heterogeneous band of inexperienced patriots, it was reportedly able, unaided by such technological luxuries as electronic computers, instant communication system and a

bicycle brigade of office couriers, to operate to every one's satisfaction, at about

2% of the National income. It was rumored that violent complaints were heard from a small band of extremist throwbacks of French Revolution vintage, but their names sooner or later appeared on the Attorney General's list. In spite of sporadic grievances, the thirteen colonies grew into a great nation, and prospered. Theoretically, at least, after many generations of experience, the increase in Federal efficiency and competency should have driven the cost of serving the common-weal down somewhat below the initial 2% operating cost.

If this is a correct assumption, why the present 20% tab for services rendered?

That is the question that this column will attempt to answer in the days ahead. To do this, however, the dialogue will be noticeably different than you have been used to reading in most of our current news media. Instead of allowing the Administration Planners to tell the voter what government thinks is best for him, we propose to regard the Washington "think factories" as work areas for public servants, where beneficiaries of the public dole can start earning their daily bread in the service of their voter-clients.

Almost forgotten, is the ubiquitous political phenomena that the voter is the principal and he whose wages are paid in tax dollars is the agent.

In order to get our dialogue off the launching pad, we hereby offer the following hypothesis as a basis upon which to re-develop, institutional concept, which for

System." Briefly, it can be stated as follows:

Time and again President Diem reported directly to Ambassador Lodge the names, deeds and documents of Americans in Saigon who were plotting the overthrow of this government. Mr. Lodge always took these charges under advisement but he never acted upon them. According to Madam Labin, the culprits were still at large in Saigon and on the American payroll when the coup exploded on November 1, and when President Diem and his brother were dead.

Well, who was at fault? Was it a person or an official policy? In a recent closed-door hearing of the Senate Committee on Foreign Relations, Mr. Lodge assured the Senators present, that in all that he had done in Vietnam, he had received "full co-operation from the President of the United States and the American State Department. There was never any strain of dissension between us," he concluded (Washington World, Aug. 17, 1964).

In other words: Mr. Lodge, who is a Republican, was assuring his Senatorial audience that this smooth, successful and bloody intrigue against a friendly anti-Communist government is an up-to-date example of American bipartisan foreign policy at its co-operative best.

Today Vietnam, yesterday Laos and Cuba, and before that China and Eastern Europe. In this current political campaign there is much talk about our military weapons and who shall trigger them against the attacking enemy, where and when. But why